

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraph:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 102 61 910.7 filed on December 30, 2002. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2003/004297 filed on December 29, 2003. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

On page 4, please replace the first paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

--SU 732207 describes sorbents produced from activated charcoal and coated activated charcoal, e.g. with a solution of poly(acrylic acid) or poly(acrylic acid) and poly(ethylene amine). Further polymer coatings of activated charcoals are described in US 4,048,046, US 4,171,283, US 5,420,601, and ~~SU 844769~~ SU 844569. However, the disadvantages of activated charcoal such as low mechanical stability and low adsorption speed could not be eliminated with these methods.--